

Hawaii MARINE

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Marines back in action at Makua

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION — In more ways than one, it has been difficult for military services to conduct training in Makua Valley. Though the region is described as boasting the most rugged terrain on Oahu — which makes it highly desirable for military training — it has also been the center of a debate over

endangered Hawaiian habitats and sensitive cultural sites.

Controversy has oftentimes caused the military to cease training on the range. According to EarthJustice (a nonprofit public interest law firm) and Malama Makua (a Hawaiian-based cultural preservation group), the military's live-fire training destroys endangered Hawaiian habitats, plants and animals in the valley. However, just last week, a

judge allowed the Marine Corps to resume training here for the first time in more than five years.

Approval to use the area took almost three months, explained Capt. James G. Sweeney, company commander of India Co., 3rd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, but he said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army provided outstanding support in helping to make training here a reality.

Approval time frames should decrease as training becomes much more frequent, he added, since these first steps have established a better repertoire with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local residents.

India Co., 3/3, Marines, known as "America's Battalion," were eager to use the reservation, and after a few days of maneuvering through the harsh hills, deep valleys and thick brush, they began to

understand why the area is so coveted.

"There aren't many ranges out there that are as challenging as this one," said Cpl. Jeff G. Lazar, team leader for Weapons Platoon, India Co., 3/3. "This is one of the best ranges besides Pohakuloa Training Area."

Hawaii's Pohakuloa Training Area is the only other range in the state that can provide serv-

See MAKUA, A-4



Corporal Daniel P. Sullivan, a military policeman with Combat Assault Battalion, teaches an ROK Marine corporal the correct way to "Pie" around corners to ensure all danger zones are covered as they climb a stairway inside a multiple-story building at Rodriguez Range.

Training with ROK Marines successful

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

At the conclusion of this year's Korean Integrated Training Program, the Marines from Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, returned to their warm homes, satisfied with the training gained and the relationships built during the past month spent near the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea.

"We had a great time," said 1st Sgt. Tony Sammartino, Headquarters Co. first sergeant. "The training was top-notch, and the Marines put in everything they had."

During the past four weeks, the Marines of Headquarters Co. established base camps at several field locations, where

they had to bring up and maintain communications among all of them throughout the exercise.

"During this exercise, we dealt with some unusual combinations of connections, but we were still able to keep communications running smoothly for most of the exercise, which means we have accomplished our mission," said Cpl. Jayson B. Schemenauer, Public Key Infrastructure chief for Headquarters Co.

While the communications Marines kept things up-and-running at the command centers, other Marines from Headquarters Co. trained with the Republic of Korea Marines during a Mountain Warfare Ropes Course and conducted Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training together at Rodriguez Range.

er at Rodriguez Range.

"The MOUT training we got was extensive, not just for the Korean Marines who haven't ever done this sort of training before, but for our Marines as well, as we learned a lot from the LAR [Light Armored Reconnaissance] Marines who taught with us," said Cpl. Nathan Royster, embarkations NCO and MOUT instructor for 3rd Marines.

Extensive combat training with foreign military is not always easy, but the Marines of Headquarters Company claim there were times when they would forget they were dealing with people who didn't speak English, because they seemed to

See ROK MARINES, A-7

Troops return from ROK

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

More than 100 Marines and Sailors from Combat Service Support Detachment 77 returned home to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, last week, from a six-week deployment in the Republic of Korea in support of Freedom Banner/Foal Eagle 2004.

During the deployment, Marines and Sailors of CSSD-77 were responsible for the combat service support of various ground combat units that were also involved in the exercise, including 3rd Marine Division; 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment; and Combat Assault Battalion.

They completed a full Maritime Prepositioning Force offload and reload — in record time — to support all of the units at the exercise. During the offload, Marines "disassociated" all the excess gear that was not required for the exercise, and when the exercise ended, they regenerated and reloaded all their gear and equipment onto the MPF ship.

"CSSD-77's overall mission was ... a two-fold success," said 1st Sgt. Carlos Perez, the first sergeant for CSSD-77. "Many of the staff noncommissioned officers were able to train in billets they have never filled before and familiarize themselves with the workings of an MPF offload."

On the troop level, Perez added, Marines and Sailors supported the ground combat element, and completed mountain warfare, MOUT, demolitions and live-fire training, which many had never previously experienced.

More than 120 Combat Service Support Group 3 Marines and Sailors are still in the Republic of Korea. They're scheduled to come home later this month.

Community pulls together to support Marine

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

It has been said that when a service member goes into combat he will sacrifice everything for his buddies fighting next to him. That concept is just as true for homeland Marines.

After a training accident left an MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Marine paralyzed, service members and civilians from Windward and Leeward Oahu volunteered time, money and labor to support the Marine

and his family with a number of fund-raisers.

Sergeant Christopher R. Montez, training noncommissioned officer for 3rd Marine Regiment, is currently in a spinal rehabilitation hospital in Houston, Texas, after a helicopter accident left him severely paralyzed. His wife and two young children are with him at the hospital, providing support.

"Family spirits are high," said Lt. Col. Brad C. Vickers, executive officer of 3rd Marine Regiment. "Sergeant Montez is an unbelievable Marine and has continued to remain positive throughout the entire ordeal."

The effort to raise money — to provide for financial expenses beyond what is borne by the military — took but little time to organize. The response, however, was overwhelming. The combined effort brought in \$13,560, exceeding the \$10,000 Sgt. Maj. Dorsey E. Roberts Jr., battalion sergeant major of 3/3, hoped to raise.

"It was not the amount of money raised that mattered most," said Roberts. "What made all the difference was the effort and eagerness to help that volunteers and units displayed."

MCBH News Briefs

H-3 to Close for Four Days

The Honolulu-bound lanes of the H-3 freeway will be closed to vehicular traffic from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and May 1-2, for routine tunnel maintenance. Further, the Honolulu-bound lanes of the H-2 freeway will be closed to vehicular traffic from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

For more details, call Scott Naleimaile at the State Department of Transportation at 831-6712.

Nominees Sought for Federal Government Awards

The 2004 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon will be held June 8 at 10:45 a.m. in the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel to recognize outstanding federal employees and private citizens who contribute significantly to federal government agencies/commands.

Nominations are now being accepted for military and civilian nominees in eight different categories: Federal Employee of the Year for Professional, Administrative, and Technical; for Clerical and Assistant; and for Trades and Crafts; Enlisted Service Member, Military Officer, and Manager/Supervisor of the Year; Exceptional Community Service; Federal Organizational Excellence; and Citizen of the Year.

To attend, pick up tickets through May 12 in Room 6, Bldg. 216, for \$26, which includes tax and gratuity. Validated parking will be available at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel and Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center. Also, transportation will be available for MCB Hawaii personnel and residents, to and from the event.

For more information, contact Mr. Daniel Gonzales at 257-8808.

Military Urged to Register to Vote

DoD personnel should consult the 2004/2005 Voting Assistance Guide at www.fvap.gov for election procedures. Federal Post Card Application forms should be mailed prior to Aug. 15 to obtain an Absentee Ballot that allows participation in this year's presidential election on Nov. 2.

Hawaii MARINE

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CSSD-77 provides connectivity

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

CAMP WARRIOR, WESTERN CORRIDOR, Republic of Korea — As Freedom Banner/Foal Eagle '04 moves forward at full speed here from Feb. 27 until Monday, Marines from Communications Platoon, Headquarters Co., Combat Service Support Detachment 77, have been working day and night to keep communications up and running between Pyon-taek Naval Base, Camp Warrior and Camp Nightmare. The platoon has been responsible for not only radio communication between CSSD-77, CSSD-34, CSSD-27 and CSSD-18, but for telephone and Internet connections as well.

At the beginning of the exercise, the Marines installed the mobile radio component 142, which runs microwave and multi-channel radios. It was installed to pass data through the systems, which in turn assists the Internet connections.

They also installed six radio nets to accommodate various needs of the exercise, and maintained them throughout the evolution. The nets are a group of radios set to speak to only one another — similar to a chat room on the Internet, and each net contains a listing of certain frequencies that it can operate on.

"Camp Warrior has six working radio nets, and each net will be something different," said Sgt. John Cruz, a field radio operator with Communications Platoon, CSSD-77. "One wave will be for range safety, and the other five will be used for communication with adjacent units."

The first net is called the command net, which is used by the commanding officer for tactical maneuvers and information gathering. The second net, called the comcord net, is used



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Gunnery Sgt. Frederick Smith, communications chief with S-6, Headquarters Co., CSSG-3, holds the MRC-142 antenna steady as the Marines anchor it down with guidelines.

for troubleshooting. Vehicles and convoys use the convoy net to keep the command operation center aware of where they are located. Rapid requests for support like food, water, ammo and fire support are made through the request net. The extra nets can be used for whatever the unit may require.

Marines were also responsible for installing radios in six vehicles as well as setting up numerous portable radio components called man-pack radios, which are carried by radio operators in the field.

"You have four parts to our platoon: radios, phones, Internet and maintenance, and each part is essential," said Cruz. "Without us, units would not be able to go in the field, complete missions or go on convoys. That is why we are all so important to the mission of the Marine Corps."

In the effort to fulfill their mission of providing communication links with all the units, the Communications Platoon recently installed an MRC-142 antenna atop a large hill overlooking Camp Warrior to set up a data link with 3rd Marine Division while at Camp Nightmare.

"The antenna is very awkward; it takes an average of six Marines just to place it," said Gunnery Sgt. Frederick Smith, the communications chief with S-6, Headquarters Co., CSSG-3. "It takes two Marines to lift and four others to hold the guidelines keeping it straight."

Marines attached 16 guidelines to the antenna before they raised it to the antenna's full height of 50 feet. When the antenna was anchored down, the Marines made sure it was perfectly balanced. Otherwise, it could have become unstable and fallen. Also, any mistake could be fatal because of the antenna's weight and the height it could fall from.

"Although there are risks in our job, it is never dangerous as long as you pay attention and stay smart," said Cruz.

The operation was touch and go for a few moments; however, the Marines successfully raised the antenna and established contact with 3rd Marine Regiment, ending just another day in the life of the Communications Platoon.

"We got the mission accomplished, and that is what is important; it is why we are here," said Smith. "In an area like this where we have to cut down trees and remove other obstacles, it can be difficult. But my Marines do what they do best and perform to their fullest."

"They always give 100 percent," Smith added.

Marines and Sailors have a blast in ROK

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

KANSAS RANGE, WESTERN CORRIDOR, Republic of Korea — As operations Freedom Banner/Foal Eagle '04 slowly began to wind down, the Marines and Sailors of Combat Service Support Detachment 77 (out of MCB Hawaii), and Combat Service Support Group 33 (out of Okinawa, Japan) took a sudden respite as an opportunity to complete demolitions training here recently.

A group of 16 Marines and Sailors headed to the range with little or no experience behind them. Most of them are attached to a service-related unit, and the opportunity to do this type of training does not arise very often.

"This is a learning experience for all of us," said 1st Sgt. Carlos Perez, the first sergeant of CSSD-77, and the head instructor of the demolitions range. "We don't expect any of these Marines and Sailors to be experts; that is what the instructors are for. We want to teach and prepare them for any situation that may arise."

The instructors trained the Marines and Sailors in both basic nonelectric and electric demolitions by introducing them to each component and demonstrating its process and effect. They covered time fuses, starter fuses and detonation cords, and showed how each one could be used with either electrical or nonelectrical blast caps to ignite the Composition 4 (C-4) explosive.

Marines and Sailors watched a number of demonstrations, which used all of the different components

so that they understood what they were working with before they were allowed to set off live C-4.

Sergeant Michael Hammond, a combat engineer with CSSD-77, instructed them on the history, safety issues and basics of C-4. He described various situations that C-4 could be used for, and explained that it is so versatile he could not name every situation.

"Although C-4 is a very stable element, you still need to take every precaution," said Hammond. "Safety is paramount out here. We don't yell and we don't mock anyone."

"When working with demolitions you should stop, think and then ask; no question is wrong. No one should be scared to say 'I don't know,'" he explained, "because in this environment it is knowledge that will keep you safe."

Once Marines and Sailors completed their practical application, they began to work with the live C-4 and charges. The first group set off eight separate nonelectrical charges, followed by a second group that connected another eight electrical charges in a circular circuit, using only one firing wire.

The explosions resonated off the surrounding hills and shook the walls of the safety bunker, as rocks and debris flew through the air over the bunker.

"The entire day was awesome. I always wondered what it was like to work with demolitions, and today I got to learn all about it and get hands-on experience with it," said Lance Cpl. Ian Gauslin, a warehouse clerk



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Gunnery Sgt. Michael Golden, the detachment gunnery sergeant for CSSD-77, uses a set of crimpers to place a hole in a block of C-4 in preparation for a non-electrical charge at the demolitions range at Kansas Range, Western Corridor, Republic of Korea.

with Supply Co., CSSD-77. "The explosions were really impressive too. I did not realize how much damage a little C-4 could actually make."

Once all Marines and Sailors had taken their turn detonating the C-4, the instructors and combat engineers took the last of the C-4 and compounded it into two large blasts that shook the entire compound.

All were in awe of the explosions, and one Marine exclaimed, "There is nothing we like more than seeing an explosion we organized."

Down the rabbit hole

Lava Dogs tackle Army’s MOUT course

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Once the command to begin was received, a team of four Marines took only seconds to reach a seemingly empty building with their M16-A2 service rifles ready for action. When they reached the building, their reaction skills were tested by a number of hidden simulated targets.

Nearly 110 Marines from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, spent last week brushing up on their expertise in Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) environments here. MOUT training, specifically the MOUT Assault Course (MAC) was the third obstacle Marines faced during a three-day training cycle.

The first two days of training tired the “Lava Dogs” out. At the rappel tower, they qualified for the fast rope, then successfully completed a day and night Navigation Course through Schofield’s east ranges.

On the third day — despite the fact that their patience and drive were getting completely dulled by lack of sleep, days of Meals Ready to Eat, and the thought of what was to still come — Charlie Company pushed through exhaustion and focused on its

final and most dangerous training obstacle: destroying a building full of enemy targets in groups of four team members with fully loaded rifles.

“We ran at least six to seven dry runs through the course before we put any ammunition into our weapons,” said Lance Cpl. Ronald W. Potter, squad leader for 3rd Platoon. “We had to make sure we could run through the course perfectly before we tried it with live rounds.”

At least seven new Marines were in each of the three platoons that make up Charlie Co. This was the first group of new Marines Charlie Company had received in more than two years, which heightened the chance of mistakes during the exercise.

After the dry runs, Marines appeared comfortable with their ability to maneuver through the MAC buildings without anyone getting injured. Then the real test began.

“It tested my nerves as a squad leader because if something went wrong with one of my team members it was, in all actuality, my fault,” said Potter.

Each platoon’s individual teams executed skill and precision through the various building structures. Once the entire company accomplished its goals — making it through the MAC with next to no mistakes and no injuries — a sigh of relief was breathed.

“The best part of the three days was seeing the new Marines making it through all the hard parts,” said Potter, “especially the live-fire through the MAC course. Making it through that was a real accomplishment for each one of them.”

Regiment teaches Korean Marines urban combat skills

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

RODRIGUEZ RANGE/CAMP BONIFAS, Republic of Korea — A team of eight U.S. Marines put together a six-day training package at two urban facilities here, to introduce a battalion of Republic of Korea Marines to Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT).

The squad of MOUT instructors from Headquarters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment, and Combat Assault Battalion joined together to teach 2nd Battalion, 7th ROK Marine Regiment, the basics of urban warfare.

The ROK Marines’ first introduction to urban training took place at a MOUT training facility located at Rodriguez Range. Here, in what resembled a small abandoned town, the ROK Marines learned how to move to and from buildings, through hallways, staircases and rooms while working together as separate fire teams (a four-man fighting group). They also learned techniques for peaking around corners, clearing rooms with grenades, and most importantly, how to effectively communicate to reduce the chance of fratricide.

“From the very first day of training, the ROK Marines were extremely eager to learn,” said Cpl. Nathan Royster, MOUT instructor from 3rd Marine Regiment. “When the ROK Marines came out the second day, they were like a whole different unit. It was amazing how much of the training was retained.”

“This is our first exposure to the MOUT environment, and learning from the U.S. Marine Corps makes the training that much more exciting for my Marines,” said Capt. Hyung-Rea Kim, commander of Weapons Co., 2/7.

According to Kim, the ROK Marines don’t get to practice much urban training due to limited access to their facilities.

To conclude the first three-day training evolution at “MOUT town,” the U.S. Marines posed as aggressors,

Left — Private First Class William C. Wipf, an administration clerk with Headquarters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment, drops over a large wall to gain entry to a building at the Rodriguez Range MOUT facility.

Center — An ROK Marine holds hallway security as his squad moves through the shoothouse. His small silhouette provides a hard target for the U.S. Marine hiding at the end of the hallway.

Bottom — Two U.S. Marines hold down a room as an ROK Marine surprises them, and nearly gets shot in the foot.



defending the town from ROK Marine infiltration. The ROK Marines used their new skills to avoid booby-traps, locate optimal building entry points and flush out, or kill, any U.S. Marine combatants.

“I had a blast!” said Royster. “They must have been up late practicing because when they came through, they were operating as a cohesive unit and executing their techniques just the way we taught them. It’s really rewarding to see a unit this size remember and utilize everything we have taught them without skipping a beat.”

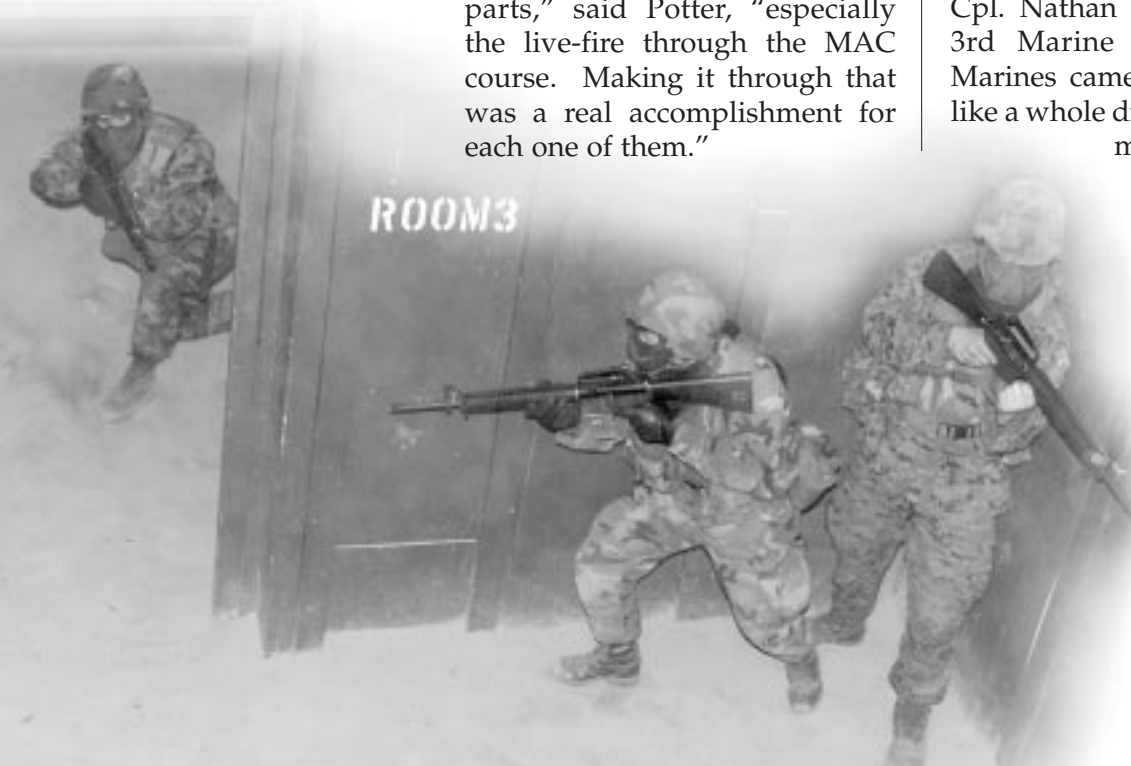
After learning how to maneuver around the obstacles of a large town, the U.S. Marines met up with the ROK Marines for a more detailed, hands-on approach to clearing a building.

This three-day training evolution called for the ROK Marines to successfully clear a building with five U.S. Marine combatants waiting inside. Both groups were given Simunition rounds, which fire from the M-16A2 service rifle much like paint-balls, to clearly mark their opponent with either pink or blue paint.

“I think being hit by the Sim-rounds really made the ROK Marines realize how dangerous a MOUT environment can be,” said Sgt. Rafael Perez, a MOUT instructor from 3rd Marine Regiment.

The fast-paced shoothouse brought a sense of reality to the training, and allowed the U.S. and ROK Marines to develop their relationship as the Korean Integrated Training Program neared its end.

“The U.S. Marines were very enthusiastic about the training, which in turn, made my Marines excited to learn from them,” said 1st Lt. Hyunkyu Ahn, commander of 7th Company, 2/7. “I was very surprised at how much the enlisted Marines know. They know more than many of my officers, especially when it comes to MOUT training. We are very grateful that the U.S. Marines took the time to teach us.”



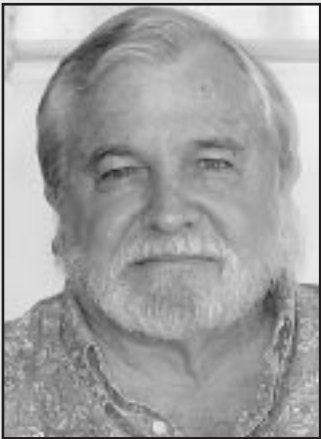
Word on the Street

What is your fondest childhood memory?



“When my sister bought ducks and we raised ducklings.”

Lance Cpl. Randall Walker
Saxophonist
Marine Forces
Pacific Band



“Taking the one-and-a-half-hour drive out to Waikiki beach in a 1939 green Ford and getting ice cream.”

Frank Embree
Retired Navy Captain



“When I saw snow for the first time while visiting my grandparents in Indiana.”

Corporal Dain Cole
Trumpet player
Marine Forces
Pacific Band



“Visiting and fishing with my uncle when I was 11 in Alaska.”

Lance Cpl. Stephen Wooton
Supply and administration clerk
MAL5-24



“Going biking with my father on the weekends.”

Robert Lee
Engraver
MCB Hawaii

Detailed terrain models help save lives

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

SEUNG JIN (NIGHTMARE) RANGE, Republic of Korea — Dealing with multiple moving elements and coordinating attacks among air, land and sea can make planning military operations a complicated endeavor for a Marine commander. Further, extreme contours in the land can add to the difficulty of moving ground elements, when commanders are left to read and operate solely on the complicated contour lines of a topographical map.

Fortunately, the commander of 3rd Marine Regiment had another useful tool to aid the Korean Integrated Training Program here, provided by three intelligence analysts of Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment. They reconstructed a terrain model to exact scale, which replicated areas of operations from mountainous terrain to urban environments, to aid the commander in planning the operation.

“Our mission is to study the weather, the enemy and the terrain in order to reduce the commander’s uncertainty,” said Cpl. Kevin Graving, a Coon Rapids, Minn., native.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Colonel J.J. Patterson and Lt. Col. Suk Hwan Choi review an exercise plan utilizing a scale representation, or terrain map, useful to predict and avoid problems.

Graving, an intelligence analyst for Headquarters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment, joined the Marine Corps for adventure, and an adventure is what he found here in the mountains of South Korea.

“We design the terrain model so that the commander can literally walk through his area of operations, allowing

him to foresee potential problems in the attack in the planning stage,” explained Graving.

The analysts reduced the 20 square kilometers of Nightmare Range, to a 20-by-16-foot “sand box,” with different colors of sand to designate waterways and roadways.

Lance Cpl. Joshua Sticklen, who was involved in this, his first, terrain map of Nightmare Range was proud of the detail they put into the model. Also an intelligence analyst with Headquarters Co., he pointed out that the terrain map is somewhat similar to building elaborate sand castles on the beach.

“We build the model one grid square at a time,” said Sticklen. “You have to pay close attention to the contour lines in order for everything to match, but once it does, it looks incredible.”

According to Sticklen, the accurate representation of this range took approximately four days to complete, but the satisfaction of the completed project was well worth the time spent.

Allowing the commander to view his area of operations on a smaller scale, and allowing him to physically walk through the movement of troops and mechanized units, is more than just a convenience — it can save lives.

“An accurate terrain map to work on provides us with the ability to see how our operation will be executed in a remarkably similar environment,” said Col. J.J. Patterson, commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment. “This can help us see and avoid problems before they happen.”

MAKUA, From A-1

ice members with the same level of challenge as Makua Valley. The difficulty with training at PTA, however, is the availability of transportation associated with deployment to the Big Island. Makua Valley is a much more realistic training exercise location for these

Marines.

Marines conducted various training, from firing mortars to maneuvering through trenches with live M67 fragmentation grenades, at last week’s training. As a precaution against fires that have occurred in the past, a special platoon of 20 Marines received a short class on fire fighting and equipped

themselves with the necessary gear in case a blaze happened to break out.

Also, in accordance with an agreement with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for training here, two specially equipped fire fighting, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, together with a team of state fire fighters

remained on the scene. Further, if a blaze had ignited, two CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters that were outfitted with 660-gallon water carriers known as “Bambi Buckets” were also standing by as an added precaution.

“The objective ... was not only to provide Marines with necessary training, but to also

prove that we can conduct training while safely maintaining the valley,” Sweeney explained.

Indeed, Makua Valley remained unscathed throughout the training, which means the odds of the Marine Corps returning here are more positive than they’ve been in years, according to military officials.

Marines strengthen bonds with South Korean people

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

MUNSAN, Republic of Korea — A group of Marines from Regimental Combat Team 3 (RCT-3) helped out a Republic of Korea Marine Corps chaplain and a local reserve station by laying the groundwork for a new volleyball court in front of the station here earlier this month.

Chaplain Sang Kil Choi, a retired ROK Marine now serving as a Presbyterian minister for the ROK Marine Corps, linked up with U.S. Navy Cmdr. Arthur Brown, regimental chaplain for 3rd Marine Regiment, to help make this day happen for the U.S. and ROK Marines.

“Community relations are a key part of conducting operations overseas,” said Brown. “This is a chance for these Marines to leave a piece of themselves here and show the younger generation of South Koreans that they are good Americans.”

Generally speaking, Marines aren’t known to get excited when they hear the words “working party,” but this was definitely a group of Marines with an agenda — to help the ROK Marines with whatever they needed — no questions asked.

“It’s a truly rewarding experience to help somebody out, and it doesn’t really matter what they need,” said Pvt. Ryan Ellis, a heavy equipment mechanic with 3rd Marine Regiment. “We’re here to help.”

After completing the volleyball court, the Marines were treated to lunch and beverages by Choi and another retired ROK Marine, Pyung Ok Kim, who manages the Munsan reserve station.

“It’s a real break in the training, coming out here to support the local community for a little while,” said Cpl. Stewart Hall, an optics technician with Headquarters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment. “It really turned out to be a great time.”

Later, Choi, Kim and a group of distinguished retired ROK Marines hosted and paid for 110 of RCT-3 staff and officers to enjoy a \$20 per plate dinner at a local restaurant.

According to Brown, the dinner was a way for the ROK Marines to say thanks for all the support the U.S. Marines provided to the South Korean people during efforts to build strength and goodwill between the two nations. Their uncommon spirit of generosity and hospitality was greatly appreciated by all, he said.

“The Marines are very proud,” said Choi, “and hard to find around this area [because] they come around maybe once or

twice per year to train, but [when they do,] they always find time to come help us out with a project.”

According to Choi, the younger generations of South Koreans don’t understand the contributions and loss of life that the American people of his generation gave to South

Korea and why the Americans gave their lives to save their country. It was important to Choi that the ROK Marines worked alongside U.S. Marines within the community, so that his countrymen could see for themselves what a U.S. Marine is all about.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Marines from Regimental Combat Team 3 pull a tarp loaded with dirt as they help build a volleyball court.

Land navigation rocks Marines

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS—Nearly a thousand years before the notion that the world was round and not flat, the North Star served as the primary tool in the art of navigating through unknown terrain. As evolution progressed during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.), a Chinese scholar invented the first compass designed primarily for fortune-tellers to consult during their readings.

Since then, the original compass, which consisted of a piece of magnetic ore on a square slab, has developed into an effective land navigational tool used by military members around the world.

Recently, Marines from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, benefited from the modernized version of the compass, along with maps and good weather. The Marines displayed their



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

(From left) Private First Class Nathan McClure, field radio operator; Lance Cpl. Stephen Johnson, automatic rifleman; and Pfc. Aaron Pickering, rifleman — all from Charlie Company — check their map and compass coordinates to locate their next point.

navigational skills by making their way through nine points during a day and night land navigation course exercise on the east ranges of the Army’s Schofield Barracks.

The three platoons set out in

fire teams of four people, with the objective of finishing the course in as little time as possible.

“The training was a bit more challenging because we had a lot of newer Marines out with

us,” said Lance Cpl. Scott Widmayer, team leader, 2nd Platoon. “The more experienced Marines had a good time teaching them though.”

Charlie Company trains every Tuesday through Thursday. The experience they gain in the field teaches and prepares them for basically anything they would encounter in a real, wartime situation.

“I feel really confident in my ability to perform in a number of different areas; the training I have received in land navigation has made me comfortable with reading a grid and using my compass and understanding what everything means on a map,” said Sgt. Norman Harrall, squad leader, 2nd Platoon.

Although the methods aren’t necessarily new, continuous application of these techniques helps to sustain the knowledge we already have, Harrall added.

If he could have it his way, Widmayer would recommend a

lot more training, specifically for land navigation.

“It is extremely useful. Fully understanding everything about the tools [map, points and compass,] could make a big difference in the end,” he explained.

The field exercises used to take place at K-Bay only. Since then, the training has expanded to areas like Schofield and Kahuku training areas.

“Broadening the location has provided for training opportunities on different terrain, which helps Marines feel more comfortable in various areas,” Harrall explained.

The ultimate goal for this specific land navigation exercise was to familiarize the less-experienced Marines and give them tips on how to maneuver through the course quicker, said Widmayer.

“I think the smaller groups were extremely effective,” he said. “The one-on-one training was exactly what the newer Marines needed.”

Skinny Dragons take fitness lead from Marines

Lt. j.g. Shawn Spooner
Patrol Squadron 4
Assistant Public Affairs Officer

Since New Year’s, you may have seen them displaying their squadron pride as they fine-tune their level of fitness, or in some cases, whip themselves into shape. No “jodies” and no platoon formations, it’s just plenty of sweat for these guys and gals.

Dressed in navy blue shorts and gold squadron shirts, with the green Skinny Dragons logo on the back, they work to improve command personnel readiness four times a week.

Recently, Patrol Squadron 4 conducted its semiannual spring Physical

Readiness Test, or PRT, with dramatic results. Seventeen personnel graduated from the command’s Fitness Enhancement Program, which is designed to assist two different types of personnel.

Individuals who are not within the Navy’s height/weight standards are the first group targeted. The second is comprised of individuals who have not met the minimum standards for the PRT’s events.

The Navy PRT consists of four different tests: the sit and reach, curl-ups, push-ups, and the 1.5-mile run/walk. The minimum standards are based on age and gender.

In order to graduate from the Fitness Enhancement Program, individuals

must pass two consecutive PRTs. In keeping with OPNAVINST 6110.1G’s intent of having a physically prepared fighting force, command leadership looks for a systematic method to get all members of the command physically fit.

Sailors are afforded the opportunity for physical training, PT, at least three times per week, during normal working hours. As well, VP-4 took a lesson from Marines stationed here at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Now the squadron performs PT as a unit, building esprit de corps in addition to individual fitness.

Four times a week, command PT and Fitness Enhancement Program sessions

are led by a group of Navy-designated command fitness leaders. The hour-long sessions include jumping jacks, push-ups, sit-ups, crunches, lunges and other such intensive exercises.

Following calisthenics, the command completes a three-mile run. Further, more experienced runners have the opportunity to participate in a variety of distances and terrains that often find the Sailors running up the rolling hills or along the sandy beaches that K-Bay has to offer.

The Skinny Dragons will complete their fall PRT in September. Until then, you can expect to see them out and about, sweating it out together as a squadron, every Tuesday and Thursday.



Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith-Fichter, machinegun team leader, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, taps the Marine beside him as a signal to resume firing.

Marines strive to be operations capable

Lance Cpl.
Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Through the still heat of the day, amphibious assault vehicles rolled up the track and came to a sudden halt. As the ramp lowered to the ground, gunshots rang out as Marines from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rushed to secure and attack the Range Training Facility during a mechanized live-fire with the AAVs aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, recently.

It was the first time the whole company had taken part in this training, and also the first time at K-Bay, said Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Murdock, a platoon sergeant in Alpha Co., 1/3.

During the exercise, Marines loaded up in the tracks, and punched out downrange. The support element secured the area, so the assault company could get through to the objective site.

“Each element had its own assignment to let the assault get to the front and accomplish the mission,” said Murdock.

Several dry runs were executed before the live-fire, to ensure that things would roll smoothly, and that Marines would know exactly what to do and when to do it.

The Marines performed countless numbers of gun drills and trained on targets to get everything right, said Cpl. Niles Holland, mortar section leader, Alpha Co., 1/3.

During the exercise, the AAVs provided security, said Sgt. Cory E. Davis, AAV crew chief with Combat Assault Company. They sent rounds downrange while the 1/3 Marines prepared for the attack. Their job was suppressing the enemy and performing all their actions in a timely manner, he added, emphasizing, “Our mission in life is speed.”

Surprised during the first live-fire movement, the assault company received the signal that the enemy had retreated halfway through, resulting in longer rushes, said Cpl. Charles Lott, a squad leader for 1/3.

“This was actually better on the Marines since the shorter rushes were much more exhausting,” said Lott. “It was hard on them climbing over the neck-deep trench and over the berm.”

Lott said the most diffi-

cult part for the Marines seemed to be the weapon’s handling and endurance, both of which are very easy to fix with training.

“This is just the beginning of a lot of training — working towards the goal of being operations capable for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit,” said Murdock. “The Marines should be good to go for whatever may come in the future. They kept their heads in the game and executed the mission.”

ROK MARINES, From A-1

understand their body language and a few key words very well.

“I really enjoyed working with the ROK Marines, because they really respect us as U.S. Marines, and they try to emulate everything we do,” said Lance Cpl. Joshua Sticklen, intelligence analyst and MOUT instructor for Headquarters Co. “It feels good knowing someone is looking up to you.”

Most of the Marines had a chance to visit the Joint Security Area, and the Demilitarized Zone, as they trained in very

close proximity to the only land connection between North and South Korea.

“It was a sobering moment,” said Sticklen. “I never realized how much they [North Koreans] hate us.”

With an average daily low of zero degrees centigrade, South Korea was not only a culture shock, but also a climate shock for the tropically acclimatized Marines of Hawaii.

“I don’t miss the weather there one bit,” said Sticklen. “When the pilot announced our arrival in Hawaii, everyone on the plane cheered, knowing they wouldn’t be shivering when they departed the plane. It’s good to be home.”

DUIs are career killers



(Editor’s Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those convicted of DUIs or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

The Military Police Department added the following names to the DUI Roster, suspended the license of the driver, and revoked his or her base driving privileges.

- Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy J. Saunders of Marine Corps Air Facility was taken into custody for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of 0.116 percent on Sat.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Kenson E. Christon of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 was taken into custody for driving with a suspended license, driving without insurance, and DUI with a BAC of 0.110 percent on Sat.
- Private Michael T. Hoffer Jr. of Weapons

Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, was taken into custody for underage drinking, reckless driving, and DUI with a BAC of 0.120 percent on Sun.

•Seaman Anthony Tate Jr. of Patrol Squadron 9 was taken into custody Monday for DUI. He refused to take the BAC test thus; automatically, his license was suspended and his base driving privileges were revoked. His DoD decal was taken away and his vehicle was removed from base the same day.